

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 OES-06 SP-02
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 CEQ-01 CG-00
DLOS-09 DOTE-00 EPA-01 FMC-01 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSF-01 PA-01 PRS-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 /132 W

-----121207Z 034793 /14

O R 121112Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1611
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN
SECDEF WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT
EUCOM VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 10513

CINCUSNAVEUR PASS POLAD; EUCOM PASS POLAD; USDOCOSOUTH
PASS CINCSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PLOS PBOR LY IT TS FR
SUBJ: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN SHELF DISPUTE: DISCUSSIONS WITH
FRENCH AND ITALIANS
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REF: STATE 80407
1. WE CONVEYED REFTEL VIEWS ON THE TUNISIAN-LIBYAN
SHELF DISPUTE TO QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AFRICA
TRISTAN D'ALBIS ON APRIL 12. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION
FOR OUR CONSULTING WITH THE FRENCH AND MADE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. QADHAFI'S ORDER TO TOTAL TO "CEASE OPERATIONS" IN THE ISIS FIELD DOES NOT YET UNDULY DISTURB THE FRENCH SINCE, IN ANY CASE, TOTAL DOES NOT INTEND TO BEGIN OPERATIONS THERE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. CONDITIONS MIGHT WELL CHANGE IN THE INTERIM.

3. ALBIS ALSO NOTED THAT LIBYAN THREATS AGAINST THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN LIMITED SO FAR TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF EXPLORATORY AUTHORIZATION, AND HAVE NOT INCLUDED THE NATIONALIZATION OF PROPERTY AS HAVE THREATS AGAINST THE ITALIANS.

4. IN GENERAL, ALBIS SAID THAT THE FRENCH HAVE TRIED TO KEEP THE ITALIANS OUT IN FRONT IN THIS MATTER, FEELING THAT ITALIAN INTERESTS ARE THE ONES PRIMARILY AFFECTED. WHEN THE CRUNCH COMES FOR THE FRENCH (PRESUMABLY WHEN TOTAL WANTS TO BEGIN OPERATIONS), THEY WILL BE FORCED TO TAKE A STRONGER POSITION.

5. A FEW MINUTES AFTER THE ABOVE CONVERSATION, QUAI DIRECTOR FOR THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA PIERRE CERLES CALLED US TO ASK FOR A MORE DETAILED EXPLANATION OF OUR ANALYSIS OF THE CONFLICTING CLAIMS WHICH SEEMS TO FAVOR TUNISIA, GIVEN THE CURRENT ALMOST TOTAL LEGAL UNCERTAINTY IN MATTERS PERTAINING TO LAW OF THE SEA. IN THIS RESPECT CERLES MENTIONED CONFLICTING FRANCO-BRITISH OCEAN CLAIMS.

6. CERLES THEN TOLD US THAT IN ORDER TO HELP THE
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TUNISIANS, THE FRENCH ARE MAKING "HIGHLY SECRET AND INDIRECT" APPROACHES TO THE LIBYANS IN AN EFFORT TO PERSUADE THEM TO ACCEPT A DECISION ON THE CONFLICTING CLAIMS TO BE MADE BY OUTSIDE EXPERTS MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TO TUNIS AND TRIPOLI. THE FRENCH BELIEVE THAT THIS

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DLOS-09 DOTE-00 EPA-01 FMC-01 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSF-01 PA-01 PRS-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 /131 W

-----121208Z 034823 /12

O R 121112Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1612

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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EFFORT HAS SOME CHANCE OF SUCCESS BUT THAT WERE IT TO
BECOME PUBLIC, IT WOULD FAIL. THEY THEREFORE HOPE THAT
THE US AND FRANCE CAN CONSULT CLOSELY AND COORDINATE
THEIR ACTION. CERLES SUGGESTED THAT ON HIS RETURN FROM
NORTH AFRICA, UNDER SECRETARY HABIB STOP OVER IN PARIS
FOR CONSULTATIONS ON THE QUESTION WITH THE QUAI.

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7. AFTER THANKING CERLES, WE TOLD HIM THAT WE WOULD
PROVIDE WHAT INFORMATION THE EMBASSY HAS AVAILABLE ON
OUR LEGAL ANALYSIS (THAT CONTAINED IN STATE 72492) AND
INQUIRE WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR HABIB TO
CONSULT IN PARIS.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: (1) THAT WE BE INFORMED
WHETHER HABIB WOULD LIKE US: (A) TO SUGGEST THAT THE
QUAI SEND SOME ONE TO ORLY DURING HIS APRIL 14 THREE
AND A HALF HOUR LAYOVER, OR, (B) TO REPLY THAT HE COULD
HOLD CONSULTATIONS AT THE QUAI THE MORNING OF APRIL 18

(WHICH WOULD MEAN HIS LEAVING CASABLANCA APRIL 17 FOR PARIS, INSTEAD OF FLYING THAT DAY DIRECTLY TO NEW YORK, AND DEPARTING FROM PARIS FOR THE US AT MID-DAY APRIL 18), OR, (C) TO SAY THAT HABIB WILL BE UNABLE TO CONSULT AT THIS TIME BUT THAT THE US WILL PROPOSE SOME OTHER FORM OF CONSULTATION.

(2) THAT THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDE ADDITIONAL LEGAL AND OTHER GUIDANCE TO RESPOND TO THIS TIMELY FRENCH INITIATIVE.

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